



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/010,403

12/07/2001

Gregory S. Bower

65783-0009

4474

10291 7590 09/20/2007
RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
39533 WOODWARD AVENUE
SUITE 140
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304-0610

EXAMINER

NGUYEN BA, HOANG VU A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2623

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/20/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/010,403

Applicant(s)

BOWER ET AL.

Examiner

Hoang-Vu A. Nguyen-Ba

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,5,7-18,20-25,27-29,31,32,34,36-40,42,44,45 and 47-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,5,7-18,20-25,27-29,31,32,34,36-40,42,44,45 and 47-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 July 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the amendment filed July 6, 2007.
2. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-18, 20-25, 27-29, 31-32, 34, 36-40, 42, 44-45 and 47-50 remain pending. Claims 1, 7, 15, 24, 31, 37, 42, 45, 48, 49 and 50 are independent claims.

Response to Amendments

3. Per Applicants' request, claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 12, 15, 24, 27, 31, 37, 42, 45, 48-50 have been amended; Claims 3 and 26 have been canceled.
4. The objection to the drawings is withdrawn in view of Applicants' filing of corrected drawings.
5. The rejections of Claims 2 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph are withdrawn in view of applicants' amendments to these claims.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicants' arguments in the Remarks, filed concurrently with the above-mentioned amendment, have been fully considered but are not persuasive. Following is an examiner's response to Applicants' arguments.

With respect to section **C. Claims 1 and 24** of Applicants' Remarks:

1. "at least one paired analog audio signal..."

Since the currently amended claims do not specifically contain the above limitation, Applicants' argument related to the above limitation is thus moot. However, it should be noted that Wakai does disclose the amended claim limitation "at least one connection ..." in FIG. 1, connections to devices 120 and 122.

2. “an analog-to-digital converter...”

See previous Office action p. 7, 6th paragraph. Furthermore, devices 120 and 122 in FIG. 1 are analog devices (e.g., VCP) and without an ADC converter, the output signals of these devices cannot interface with device 118.

3. “a video decoder...”

See previous Office action p. 7, 6th paragraph. Without a video decoder, input video signals could not be decoded and transmitted to other parts of the system.

4. “at least one connection to said digital data network...”

The examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicants’ assertion that Wakai teaches away from the instant invention. Applicants in discussing the rationale for asserting that Wakai teaches away from the claimed requirement cite 18:55 – 19:17. However, this portion of Wakai only discusses one embodiment of Wakai’s invention. Applicants have not considered Wakai’s teaching of an alternate or backup system (see at least 6:33 - 7:4) on case of a failure of the system as discussed in Applicants’ cited portion. Thus, Wakai does teach or suggest the claimed requirements.

With respect to section **D. Claim 7** of Applicants’ Remarks:

1. “an optical disc drive...”

According to Wakai’s 6:45-52, VRU could also include video disk player which outputs analog signals to the television (it should be noted that at the time of Wakai’s invention, televisions are not capable of reading digital signals yet).

With respect to section **E. Claim 12** of Applicants' Remarks:

In response to Applicants' request that the examiner provide documentary evidence to support the taking of Official notice, Applicants' reconsideration of the Office action's rationale for obviousness is respectfully requested. The Office has not taken Official notice as alleged by Applicants. Rather, the Office has used the Graham inquiries to show that Applicants' claim is obvious over Wakai teaching and the suggestion therefrom (21:60-64) that the disclosed system could be adapted to fit a vehicle's environment. In considering to modify Wakai system for the environment of a vehicle, one skilled in the art has to take into consideration the space constraint and that it is thus obvious to combine the two elements into a single enclosure.

Even assuming, *arguendo*, that there is no motivation, the examiner notes that *KSR* forecloses the argument that a specific teaching, suggestion, or motivation is required to support a finding of obviousness. See the recent Board decisions *Ex parte Smith*, -- USPQ2d --, slip op. at 20,)Bd. Pat. App. & Interf. June 25, 2007) (citing *KSR*, 82 USPQ2d at 1396) (available at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/bpai/prec/fd071925.pdf>).

With respect to section **F. Claims 15, 37 and 48** of Applicants' Remarks:

1. "an IEEE 1394 port..."

First, the claimed requirement is that "an IEEE 1394 bus connected to a digital video camera." A broad interpretation of this claim language is that a digital video camera can be connected to the IEEE 1394 bus via other components but not necessarily **directly** to the bus. In view of this interpretation Wakai does meet the claim requirement.

Second, even assuming for the sake of argument that the claimed requirement is that the camera be connected directly to the bus, Wakai's teaching of the observation camera is considered to meet the requirement of being directly connected to the IEEE 1394 bus through a port (i.e., the digital camera cannot reasonably be connected to the bus without going through a port) since a digital camera would be preferred to an analog camera because of the availability of the IEEE 1394 bus that goes directly to the user's seat.

2. "a micro-controller for receiving user command..."

As taught by Wakai, devices 1104 and 1108 are devices that user can use to issue commands to devices connected to the network. Observation cameras are intentionally located at different positions of interest for airplane crew or passengers to monitor certain external parts of the airplane and it is believed that the monitoring of the external parts of the airplane is merely an option for anyone who is interested in looking at these pictures but not a mandatory broadcast to all the passengers. Because, this is an option it should be provided to the user through an interface which would allow the user to select the option.

3. "an interface for interfacing said IEEE 1394 port..."

See response in 1. of this section F.

The examiner's response to Applicants' arguments regarding Claim 15 also applies to Claims 37 and 48.

With respect to section **G. Claims 31, 42 and 45** of Applicants' Remarks:

1. "remotely controlling said optical disc drive..."

The terms "remotely" and "network" are interpreted broadly. Since commands to run the CD ROM drive are entered at the keyboard using the CD-ROM application software, this would meet the requirement of "remotely controlling said optical disc drive." Because the keyboard is connected to the CD-ROM drive through a cord, connecting port, an I/O board, a bus, a CPU, a bus, an I/O board, it is construed that these components constitute a network in itself which also connected the system network. This interpretation would also meet the requirements of claims 31, 42 and 45. Regarding Claims 32, 34, 36, 44 and 47, see discussion related to these claims hereinafter.

With respect to section **H. Claim 49 and 50** of Applicants' Remarks:

1. "an S-video input paired with a third analog audio signal input"

As requested by Applicants, the Office uses the definition of S-video provided by Webopedia (see rejection of Claim 49 hereinafter).

The Office maintains that S-video can be used with Wakai for the reasons discussed in the previous Office action and repeated herein. See also discussion in section E. Claim 12 above regarding *KSR* decision.

2. "a first, ... second, ... third, ... and fourth multiplex..."

As requested by Applicants, the Office uses the definition of a multiplexer provided by Webopedia (see rejection of Claim 49 hereinafter).

As discussed in the rejection of Claim 49 hereinafter, it is well known in the art to select one of many data-sources and output that source into a single channel.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add a second, third and fourth multiplexers to Wakai. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to add more multiplexers to Wakai in order to make more inputs into the system interface available and to allow more flexibility in the routing of these input signals to appropriate decoders for processing.

See also discussion in section E. Claim 12 above regarding *KSR* decision.

The same response also applies to Claim 50.

According to the foregoing discussion, the rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 12, 15, 24, 27, 31, 37, 42, 45, 48-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,973,722 to Wakai is maintained and reproduced herein for Applicants' convenience.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which form the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 12, 15, 24, 27, 31, 37, 42, 45, 48-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,973,722 to Wakai et al. (“Wakai”).

Currently Amended Claim 1

Wakai discloses ~~an interface for connecting an analog audiovisual signal source with a digital data network~~ digital data distribution system (see at least FIG. 1), ~~said interface~~ comprising:

at least one paired analog audio signal input and analog video signal input (see at least FIG. 1, “Ext A/V Input” to the “System Interface Unit” 118; 7:2-3);

a compressor for receiving output from said video decoder and said analog-to-digital converter and combining and compressing said digitized video signal and said digitized audio signal into a single audiovisual data stream (see at least 9:44-45; FIGs. 7, items 712, 714); and

a network interface for receiving said single audiovisual data stream from said compressor and transmitting said single audiovisual data stream on said digital data network (see at least FIG. 1, items 118, 116, 138-140).

Wakai does not specifically disclose:

a video decoder connected to said video signal input for decoding and digitizing an incoming video signal ;

an analog-to-digital converter connected to said audio signal input for digitizing an incoming audio signal.

However, the video decoder and digitizer and audio analog-to-

digital converter are deemed inherent to Wakai as 4:42-45 and 8:3-8 show that communications between users and other components within the system are all transmitted using digital data and that these digital data are converted back to analog data as necessary. Without an analog-to-digital converter for the video and audio signals, these signals cannot be transmitted over the digital network.

Wakai further discloses:

at least one connection to said digital data network for receiving an output thereof and providing said output to an audiovisual output device (see at least FIG. 1, output to devices 120 and 122; note that a VCR needs both audio and video inputs).

Currently Amended Claim 2

Wakai discloses a built-in automobile *digital data system comprising the interface of claim 1* (see discussion in Claim 1), *wherein said digital data network is a fiber-optic network* (see at least 4:31-32; 6:33-34), *and said network interface converts said audiovisual data stream into an optical data stream before transmitting said optical data stream on said digital data network* (it is noted that this conversion is inherent to Wakai since the digital data network uses fiber optic cable, which requires that digital data be converted to optical data stream in order to be transmitted over the fiber optic cable).

Currently Cancelled Claim 3

Currently Amended Claim 4

The rejection of base claim 1 is incorporated. Wakai further discloses *wherein said compressor uses an MPEG compression* (see at least FIG. 7, item 714).

Currently Amended Claim 5

The rejection of base claim 1 is incorporated. Wakai further discloses:

a second paired analog audio signal input and analog video signal input
(see at least FIG. 1, items 120 – audio reproducer input -- and 122
– video reproducer unit).

wherein said network interface receives output from said first and second compressors, packetizes said first and second audiovisual data streams and transmits said first and second audiovisual data streams on said digital data network (see at least FIG. 1, items 118, 116, 138-140; it is noted that the digital data network is a ATM – asynchronous transfer mode – network, which encodes data traffic into small packets)

Wakai does not specifically disclose:

a second video decoder connected to said second video signal input for decoding and digitizing a second video signal;

a second analog-to-digital converter connected to said second audio signal input for digitizing a second audio signal.

However, the video decoder and digitizer and audio analog-to-digital converter are deemed inherent to Wakai as 4:42-45 and 8:3-8 show that communications between users and other components within the system are all transmitted using digital data and that these digital data are converted back to analog data as necessary. Without an analog-to-digital converter for the video and audio signals, these signals cannot be transmitted over the digital network.

Wakai does not specifically disclose *a second compressor for receiving output from said second video decoder and said second analog-to-digital converter and combining and compressing said digitized second video signal and said digitized second audio signal into a second audiovisual data stream*. However, Official notice is taken that it is well known in the art to add expansion cards to an existing system via the

backplane of the system (see Wakai, FIG. 15B, MPEG 1 Encoder Card) and that compressors (e.g., MPEG 1 card) are discrete components that can be designed as expansion card. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wakai system to provide additional slots on the interface board 118 in FIG. 1 to accommodate additional compressor cards for the purpose of future expansion.

Currently Amended Claim 7

Wakai discloses a *system for reproducing and transmitting audiovisual data from an optical disc comprising:*

an optical disc drive for reproducing audio or audiovisual data from an optical disc, wherein said optical disc drive outputs an analog video signal (see at least FIG. 1, 122 and 6:51-52; FIG. 15B, item 110, “CD Drive”).

For the remaining features of Claim 7, see discussion in amended Claim 1.

Claim 8

The rejection of base claim 7 is incorporated. Since Claim 8 recites the same feature of Claim 2, the same rejection is thus applied.

Claim 9

The rejection of base claim 7 is incorporated. Wakai further discloses *wherein said digital data network carries a plurality of audiovisual data streams in packets* (since Wakai’s digital data network is an ATM – Asynchronous Transfer Mode – network, data traffic is encoded into small packets for transmission).

Claim 10

The rejection of base claim 7 is incorporated. Since Claim 10 recites the same feature of Claim 4, the same rejection is thus applied.

Claim 11

The rejection of base claim 7 is incorporated. Wakai further discloses *a micro-controller for receiving user commands for said optical disc drive via said data network and controlling said optical disc drive in accordance with said user commands* (see at least FIG. 15B, items 1104, 1108).

Currently Amended Claim 12

The rejection of base claim 7 is incorporated. Wakai does not specifically disclose *wherein said optical disc drive and said interface are enclosed in a common enclosure, said enclosure being installed in a vehicle*. FIG. 1 of Wakai shows that the optical disc drive (e.g., item 122) and the system interface unit 118 are not enclosed in a common enclosure. However, if Wakai's system is adapted to fit in an automobile (according to the suggestion at 21:60-64), there would be an incentive to house these two discrete components in a common enclosure because of space restriction. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Wakai's system designed for an airplane to work in an automobile by housing the optical disc drive in the same enclosure as the interface for practical purposes.

Claim 13

The rejection of base claim 7 is incorporated. Since Claim 13 recites the same features of Claim 5, the same rejection is thus applied.

Claim 14

The rejection of base Claim 7 and intervening Claim 13 is incorporated. Since Claim 14 discloses the same limitation of Claim 4, the same limitation is thus applied.

Currently Amended Claim 15

Wakai discloses *a system for transmitting audiovisual data from a digital video camera comprising:*

an IEEE 1394 port for receiving an IEEE 1394 bus connected to a digital video camera (see at least FIG. 1, item 126) such that a digital audiovisual signal transmitted via said bus from said camera is received through said port (see at least 18:46-49 in the context of 18:3-19:17);

Wakai further discloses the same features of claims 8, 11 and 7. The same rejections of Claims 8, 11 and 7 are thus applied.

Claim 16

The rejection of base claim 15 is incorporated. Since Claim 16 recites the same limitation of Claim 8, the same rejection is thus applied.

Claim 17

The rejection of base claim 15 is incorporated. Since Claim 17 recites the same limitation of Claim 9, the same rejection is thus applied.

Claim 18

The rejection of base claim 15 is incorporated. Since Claim 18 recites the same limitation of Claim 4, the same rejection is thus applied.

Claim 20

The rejection of base claim 15 is incorporated. Since Claim 20 recites the same limitation of Claim 5, the same rejection is thus applied.

Claim 21

The rejection of base Claim 15 and intervening Claim 20 is incorporated. Since Claim 21 discloses the same limitation of Claim 4, the same limitation is thus applied.

Claim 22

The rejection of base claim 15 is incorporated. Since Claim 22 recites the same limitations of Claims 13 and 7, the same rejections are thus applied.

Claim 23

The rejection of base Claim 15 and intervening Claim 22 is incorporated. Since Claim 23 recites an additional third group of components having similar functions to those of Claim 20 (second group), the same rejection is thus applied.

Currently Amended Claim 24

Since Claim 24 is an independent claim that recites a method of interfacing an analog audiovisual signal source with an in-vehicle digital data network, the method performing the same method steps of currently amended Claim 1, the same rejection is thus applied.

Claim 25

The rejection of base Claim 24 is incorporated. Since Claim 25 recites the same feature of Claim 2, the same rejection is thus applied.

Currently Cancelled Claim 26

Currently Amended Claim 27

The rejection of base Claim 24 is incorporated. Wakai does not specifically disclose ~~wherein said connecting of at least audiovisual output device to said data network is performed in a vehicle in which said data network is installed.~~

However, Wakai does suggest that the system can be readily adapted for operation in environments other than aircraft, including but not limited to other transportation modes, e.g., bus among other things (21:60-64).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system taught by Wakai to operate in a vehicle (e.g., car, bus, minivan, etc.) in order to provide a fully-interactive and multiple-feature video on demand entertainment system to passengers (2:55-58; 1:40-50) for their entertainment on a trip.

Claim 28

The rejection of base Claim 24 is incorporated. Since Claim 28 recites the same limitation of Claim 4, the same rejection is thus applied.

Claim 29

The rejection of base Claim 24 is incorporated. Since Claim 29 recites the same limitation of Claim 5, the same rejection is thus applied.

Currently Amended Claim 31

Wakai discloses a method of reproducing and transmitting audiovisual data from an optical disc comprising the method steps performed by the components recited in Claim 7. The same rejection is thus applied.

Wakai further discloses:

remotely controlling said optical disc drive by entering user commands which are transmitted to said optical disc drive via said network (see at least FIG. 15B, item 110, e.g., the console/keyboard); and

providing said audio-visual data stream through at least one connection to said data network, said connection being capable of accommodating an audiovisual output device (see at least FIG. 1, output to devices 120 and 122; note that a VCR needs both audio and video inputs).

Claim 32

The rejection of base claim 31 is incorporated. Since Claim 32 recites the same limitation of Claim 8, the same rejection is thus applied.

Claim 34

The rejection of base claim 31 is incorporated. Since Claim 34 recites the same limitation of Claim 4, the same rejection is thus applied.

Claim 36

The rejection of base claim 31 is incorporated. Since Claim 36 recites the same limitation of Claim 5, the same rejection is thus applied.

Currently Amended Claim 37

Since Claim 37 is an independent claim that recites the same features of amended Claim 15, the same rejection is thus applied.

Claim 38

The rejection of base claim 37 is incorporated. Since Claim 38 recites the same limitation of Claim 8, the same rejection is thus applied.

Claim 39

The rejection of base claim 37 is incorporated. Wakai further discloses *installing said digital data network in an automobile* (see Claim 27).

Claim 40

The rejection of base claim 37 is incorporated. Since Claim 40 recites the same limitation of Claim 4, the same rejection is thus applied.

Currently Amended Claim 42

Since Claim 42 is an independent claim that recites a system for interfacing an analog audiovisual signal source with a digital data network comprising the means for performing the same method steps of independent amended Claim 31, the same rejection is thus applied.

Claim 44

The rejection of base claim 42 is incorporated. Since Claim 44 recites the same features of Claim 9, the same rejection is thus applied.

Currently Amended Claim 45

Since Claim 45 is an independent claim that recites a system for reproducing and transmitting audiovisual data from an optical disc comprising means for performing the same method steps of independent amended Claim 31, the same rejection is thus applied.

Claim 47

The rejection of base claim 45 is incorporated. Since Claim 47 recites the same features of Claim 9, the same rejection is thus applied.

Currently Amended Claim 48

Since Claim 48 is an independent claim that recites a system for transmitting audiovisual data from a digital video camera comprising means for performing the same method steps of independent Claim 37, the same rejection is thus applied.

Claim 49

Since Claim 49 is an independent claim that recites the combined features of amended Claims 1 and 5, the same rejection is thus applied.

Wakai does not specifically disclose:

an S-video input paired with a third analog audio signal input. However, Official notice is taken that cable carrying S-video signal, a definition of which available in Webopedia and shown herein below, and associated connector are well known in the art to be inexpensive and widely used for DVD players connections. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use S-video input in Wakai, as this would allow inexpensive and available connectivity of DVD players with the system interface unit.

Wakai further discloses:

a first multiplexer for receiving said first, second and S-video signals and providing a selected video signal to said first video decoder (see at least FIG. 7, item 712).

Wakai does not specifically disclose:

a second multiplexer for receiving said first, second, and third audio signals and providing a selected audio signal to said first analog-to-digital converter;

a third multiplexer for receiving said first, second, and S-video signals and providing a selected video signal to said second video decoder; and

a fourth multiplexer for receiving said first, second and third audio signals and providing a selected audio signal to said second analog-to-digital converter.

However, Official notice is taken that using multiplexer, a definition of which available in Webopedia and shown herein below, is well known in the art to select one of many data-sources and output that source into a single channel. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add a second, third and fourth multiplexers to Wakai. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to add more multiplexers to Wakai in order to make more inputs into the system interface available and to allow more flexibility in the routing of these input signals to appropriate decoders for processing.

S-video:

Short for *Super-Video*, a technology for transmitting video signals over a cable by dividing the video information into two separate signals: one for color (*chrominance*), and the other for brightness (*luminance*). When sent to a television, this produces sharper images than *composite video*, where the video information is transmitted as a single signal over one wire. This is because televisions are designed to display separate Luminance (Y) and Chrominance (C) signals. (The terms *Y/C video* and *S-Video* are the same.)

Computer monitors, on the other hand, are designed for RGB signals. Most digital video devices, such as digital cameras and game machines, produce video in RGB format. The images look best, therefore, when output on a computer monitor. When output on a television, however, they look better in S-Video format than in composite format.

To use S-Video, the device sending the signals must support S-Video output and the device receiving the signals must have an S-Video input jack. Then you need a special S-Video cable to connect the two devices.

Multiplexer:

A communications device that multiplexes (combines) several signals for transmission over a single medium. A *demultiplexor* completes the process by separating multiplexed signals from a transmission line. Frequently a multiplexor and demultiplexor are combined into a single device capable of processing both outgoing and incoming signals.

A multiplexor is sometimes called a *mux* and also spelled as multiplexer.

Currently Amended Claim 50

Since Claim 50 is an independent claim that recites a method of interfacing an analog audiovisual signal source with a digital data network, a method comprising of steps that are performed by the components recited in amended Claim 49, the same rejection is thus applied.

Wakai further discloses

providing said audiovisual data stream through at least one connection to said data network, said connection being capable of accommodating an audiovisual output device (see at least FIG. 1, output to devices 120 and 122; note that a VCR needs both audio and video inputs).

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action

is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoang-Vu "Antony" Nguyen-Ba whose telephone number is (571) 272-3701. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached at (571) 272-7353.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2600 Group receptionist (571) 272-2600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866) 217-9197 (toll-free).



September 13, 2007

ANTONY NGUYEN-BA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100